(*b*) whether any instructions have been issued by the Government that ladies should be appointed to such posts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) One.

" (*b*) No."

Supply of electricity to Badagara

* 863 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the rank in the list of priorities for extension of rural electric supply to the Cannanore-Badagara line?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The scheme for extension of supply of electricity from Cannanore to Badagara, Quilandy, etc., villages in Malabar district is being taken up for execution now."

Railway line connecting Tiruvannamalai and Merkanam

* 864 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the State Government has recommended or proposes to recommend to the Central Government the formation of a railway line connecting Tiruvannamalai and Merkanam?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

Free treatment to lepers

* 865 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why the practice of providing weekly free treatment to lepers in Pudukkottai Government Hospital and dispensaries followed by the pre-merger Pudukkottai State Government has been abandoned by the Madras Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Leprosy patients coming to Government medical institutions in the Pudukkottai Division are even now treated as out-patients and given injections biweekly free of charges, as is being done in any other medical institution outside the division. Only the practice of giving the sum of annas four to each such patient on injection days has been stopped."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Why has this payment of four annas been stopped, since that provided an inducement to lepers to come to the hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no provision for making such payment in any other hospital."